

**Statement of  
Rep. Henry A. Waxman  
March 6, 2001**

Today the Subcommittee will hear member testimony regarding the California energy situation. There are many Members testifying today, so I will keep my remarks short.

It is appropriate and important that we are examining the problems in California and the west with our electricity markets. Although Governor Davis is working hard to solve the problems in California, it is becoming increasingly evident that the scope of the problem extends to all of the western states.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the California delegation met with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Curt Hebert (AY-BEAR). During the meeting, Chairman Hebert discussed how dysfunctional the California electricity market is. He described the California market as “broken” with regional and national ramifications.

Mr. Hebert stated "I don't think there is any way California can pull itself out of this thing alone."

While Mr. Hebert has unfortunately offered no solutions yet, his words emphasize the need for federal attention to this matter.

I look forward to hearing the Members testimony today.

I yield back the balance of my time.